

For the Pupil

Everybody enjoys music. We all like to sing songs, to play pieces, and to listen to the radio. But especially we want to be able to play a musical instrument.

As soon as boys and girls are big enough they want to take lessons so that they can make music for themselves. Sometimes there is a question as to what instrument is best to learn. Shall it be a trumpet, a violin, a flute, the piano, or some other instrument? They all are good, and it is fun to play any one of them. As a rule, though, it is best to begin by studying the piano. Let us tell you why.

In the first place, the piano can play both melody and chords. It can be played alone or with other instruments or with singers. It can play up to the highest tones and down to the lowest, so that the pupil learns the whole range of musical notes. By playing a key the tone comes at once, so that you can make music right away without having to learn how to blow or to draw a bow. Because of all these advantages it is possible to become acquainted with music readily, to learn the notes quickly, and to get the best start in becoming truly musical. If you wish later to take up the study of another instrument, such as the violin or horn, the preparation given by a year or two of piano study makes it much easier and quicker.

Another good reason for learning the piano is that every kind of music can be played upon it. Songs, operas, orchestra selections, dances, and every other type of piece sounds well on the piano. You can always play any piece you like, and that is something no other single instrument can do, except perhaps the organ. But very few homes have organs, while pianos are nearly everywhere.

One of the pleasantest things about playing the piano is that it makes you welcome everywhere. It is a fine thing to be able to entertain your parents and your friends by playing for them. If people want to sing, it is good to be ready to play their accompaniment. At school a pianist is always appreciated. He is needed for the orchestra, for playing in the assembly, for marches or accompaniments, and for playing in the gymnasium. But best of all, the piano can be our own true and close friend, to which we can always turn for companionship.

So it is best to begin music study by taking piano lessons. This book will help you learn to play. It contains a number of pleasing pieces which you will enjoy learning and which others will enjoy hearing you play.